

REMARKS

With the present amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9 and 11-17, cancelled claims 3-5 and 10 without prejudice and added new claims 18-19. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 6-9 and 11-19, as amended, are presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following remarks.

As an initial matter, Applicants' counsel would like to thank Examiner Tran for the courtesies extended by her during a telephone interview on April 8, 2004 regarding the Official Action mailed on February 9, 2004.

In summary, the Examiner agreed that the window-splitting methodology of the present invention distinguished over the prior art; namely, the splitting a display window (or a plurality of windows) into separate split windows, wherein each split window (of an original window that was split) has a newly formed shared edge that is substantially aligned with a line that would pass through a begin and end point in the display. For the multiple windows embodiment, the Examiner was referred to the example of Figures 9a and 9b in the present application as showing the splitting of multiple original windows into multiple split windows, each such split window pair sharing a newly formed edge aligned with the dotted line shown in Figure 9a. Applicants' counsel and the Examiner agreed at the end of the interview that Applicants would amend the claims to clarify the invention and that an RCE would be filed.

Turning now to the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 1-5 and 8-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Cecco et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,310,631 ("Cecco") in view of Brooks, U.S. Patent No. 6,008,809 ("Brooks"). The Examiner has also rejected claims 6-7 as obvious over Cecco in view of Brooks and in further view of Lebling et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,141,007 ("Lebling"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As discussed during the interview, the presently claimed invention distinguishes over the main prior art reference of Cecco, which forms new windows in a substantially different manner than the present invention. Namely, Cecco uses grab handles (15) of an already existing display window border, which handles are selected when the user clicks and holds the mouse button with the cursor over one of the grab handles. Once the user moves the cursor to a desired location by dragging the grab handle with the mouse, a new window border or edge is formed that is *perpendicular* to the line that would pass through the begin and end points of the mouse dragging across the screen.

Thus, unlike the present invention, Cecco does not split the display window into two separate split display windows by dragging a mouse from a begin point in the display to an end point in the display, with each of the split display windows having a *newly-formed shared edge substantially aligned with a line that would pass through the begin and end points*. The present invention provides the user with a very different feel and different methodology of splitting windows than Cecco. Namely, the present invention operates like a knife cutting a line across the display screen with the windows being "cut" or split substantially along that cut line. Further, Cecco does not provide for the splitting of multiple windows as provided in claims 8, 14 and 18.

Applicants have thus amended the claims to clarify a primary difference over Cecco (i.e., a newly formed shared edge substantially aligned with a line that would pass through the begin and end points), without intending to narrow the scope of the claims previously presented. Other minor clarifying language has been added to the claims without intending to narrow the scope thereof. For instance, in claims 1, 2, 9 and 13, the word "split" has been added to form the phrase "split

display windows" to help distinguish the newly formed windows from the original window that will be split. The same is true by adding the word "original" in claims 8, 14 and 15.

Finally, it is evident neither Brooks nor Lebling provide any disclosure, teaching or suggestion of the splitting methodology of the presently claimed invention. Thus, the purported combination of Cecco with Brooks and/or Lebling would not disclose, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in the independent claims, nor any of the claims that depend therefrom. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn.


As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections that she might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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